127. Needs of the Muslims.

MR. K. A. PICHABAVA SAHIB (*Member, Trading Classes, Alleppey*) speaking of the needs of the Muslims said that the Muslims were not adequately represented in the public service. Two of their candidates should be appointed as Munsiffs, two as Magistrates, two as Assistant Superintendents of Police, a few as Inspectors of Police, one as a Judge of the High Court and a few as Excise Inspectors. In the matter of appointment of Magistrates promotions should not be given to clerks of the Secretariat, but Muslim candidates should be appointed direct. So also so far as representative institutions like the Legislative Council and the Assembly were concerned, Muhommedans were not receiving representation. The few seats granted to them by nomination did not satisfy their requirements fully. Special electorates would alone be an effective solution of the problem of their representation. In the matter of education, special scholarships should be instituted for Muhommedan students in the University classes. With a view to further developing education among the Muslims, educational conferences should be convened every year by the Director of Public Instruction. Half-fee concession should be granted to the Muslim boys of the Commercial School at Alleppey. The management of *wakf* properties was a subject which was brought forward at several sessions of the Assembly. Government should introduce a law to regulate the management of these properties.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Pitchabava Sahib, I heard your long plea for the appointment of Muslims to the service and the promotion of Muslims in the service. Apparently from the one instance that you mention, I gather that you object to promotions being given, for you refer in terms of strong disapproval to the promotion of a Secretariat clerk to the magistracy and you want Mahomedans to be appointed direct as Magistrates. Permit me to inform you that in the authorised system of recruitment to the magistracy no direct appointment is possible until such authorised system is revised.

In regard to *wakfs*, I will refer you to my reply to Mr. Mahomad Ali on the 5th March 1927, at this Assembly.

MEMBER: Nothing has been said about educational conferences.

DEWAN: I have no objection to the Mahomedans holding educational conferences.

128. Needs of Changanachery.

MR. BAPPUKUNJU MAITHEEN PILLAI (*Member, Trading Classes, Changanachery*) spoke of the following needs of Changanachery.

(1) A shed should be constructed at the Changanachery market landing. Articles brought to the landing ghats could be safely kept in the shed and passengers could also wait there. In addition to the shed, a crane was necessary for the purpose of loading and unloading articles from boats. For want of a crane great difficulty was experienced in getting down heavy packets from boats and carts. Considerable damage was also being caused to the landing ghats by careless unloading of goods.

(2) A canal should be opened between Alleppey and Changanachery. The necessity for this canal had been pressed upon the attention of Government by the members for Changanachery and Ambalapuzha at successive sessions of the Assembly. The canal was a cheap one to open, as for the most part it lay through Kandukrishi lands.

(3) The present Travellers' Bungalow at Changanachery was a useless building to which people seldom resorted. The building should therefore be demolished and the ground should be placed at the disposal of the municipality to be kept as a public *maidan*. The want of a recreation ground could not but be strongly felt in a thickly populated town like Changanachery.

(4) The Munsiff-Magistrate's court at Changanachery had a very heavy file of civil and criminal cases. A separate Second Class Magistrate's court should therefore be established at the place and the Munsiff-Magistrate should be given appellate powers over him. If this was not possible, the Tahsildar might be invested with magisterial powers.

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DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Maiteen Pillai, you may remember the question of the provision of a shed and a crane at the market landing place at Changanachery came up last year also and upon that the Chief Engineer called upon the Divisional Officer to prepare an estimate. But the Divisional Officer has not sent up the estimate. I shall ask the Chief Engineer peremptorily to call upon the Divisional Officer to send up the estimate.

As regards the Alleppey-Changanachery canal, there is a provision of Rs. 15,000 in the budget for the work this year and the question of its construction will be undertaken on receipt of a report called for from the Land Revenue Commissioner. He has not yet submitted his reply.

Your request that the present site of the Travellers' Bungalow should be converted into a public maidan, is a suggestion that I shall consider in consultation with the Chief Engineer and the Land Revenue Commissioner.

As regards the separation of the functions of the Munsiff-Magistrate, that arrangement is only in the nature of an experiment and it looks very much as though that experiment is going to prove a failure. On the 25th Makaram last, there were 343 criminal cases, 604 civil cases, 36 miscellaneous and 60 small cause cases awaiting disposal at the court. That is far too much for one Munsiff-Magistrate to dispose of and the High Court is now considering the question of a different arrangement.

129. Needs of the Meenachil taluk.

MR. JOSEPH THOMAS (*Member, Meenachil taluk, Group II*) said that Meenachil, in spite of its importance in various ways, was receiving only a niggardly treatment at the hands of Government. Out of the enormous allotments made every year for education, medical aid etc., Meenachil was getting only an infinitesimally small share. The Budget allotments for the current year itself would bear out this statement. The allotment for Education for instance in the current year's Budget was well nigh Rs. 45½ lakhs. But what did Meenachil get out of this big amount? At Palai, the chief town in Meenachil, there were two Sirkar schools, a vernacular middle school for boys and a vernacular middle school for girls. Both these schools were in very poor condition. The girls' school building was in thorough disrepair and might break down at any moment. The premises of the school were narrow and very near the public road. But no one cared to improve the school building or to extend its premises.

Similarly, Government were spending about 9¾ lakhs of rupees for the Medical and Sanitary Departments. But Meenachil was not benefited by this prodigious expenditure. The supply of medicines in the hospitals and dispensaries in the taluk was very poor, and most of the hospitals were under-manned. In the Lalam hospital, for example, there was always a number of women patients attending; but there was no lady doctor and there were no nurses in the hospital. So far as the Sanitary Department was concerned, they could at least keep the Meenachil town neat and clean and arrange for the lighting of the streets.

In regard to the Judicial Department again, the only two institutions of that department in the Meenachil taluk were a Second Class Magistrate's court and a Munsiff's court. The Munsiff's court was housed in a rented building where there was no accommodation either for clients or for vakils. More than all, the number of cases in the taluk justified the establishment of a District Court. Instead of increasing the number of judges in the Kottayam District Court, a District Court should be established at Meenachil.

The Agricultural Department was another of the important departments in the taluk. But this department which had opened many demonstration farms in other parts of the State had no demonstration farm in Meenachil. Meenachil was a taluk reputed for cocoanuts and pepper, but the Agricultural Department had done nothing to combat the infection which had caught the cocoanut and pepper plantations in the taluk.

So far as the Public Works Department was concerned, the allotment in the Budget of 1103 for the Meenachil taluk was only Rs. 5,420. The member urged

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